

Q & A



Q: Why do bees buzz?

A: Bees make a buzzing sound because they flap their wings so fast — anywhere from 200 to 300 times a second! The buzzing noise will get louder or softer depending on the bee's activity, in other words, just how busy that bee is. The bee's temperament also can make a difference in how fast the wings beat. For example, if the bee is calm, it may make less noise, and if it is angry, the wings will express that anger with a louder buzz. There are about 3,500 types of bees in North America alone. Not all bees buzz alike.

Q: What is the origin of the term "the whole 9 yards"?

A: The 1986 edition of the New Dictionary of American Slang says the phrase comes from the Army and Air Force, and means "the totality, everything, the whole thing." It's also related to the term "the whole shebang." The whole 9 yards has an unknown precise origin, but perhaps is derived from or related to the mid-1800s term "to the nines" or "up to the nines," which means perfectly or thoroughly as in "dressed to the nines." The number 9 is also a perfect number in numerology. The load of a concrete mixer truck usually comes in 9-yard and 10-yard amounts.

By William S. Goodfellow
Deseret News music critic

UTAH SYMPHONY, Victor Yampolsky conducting, with pianist Dmitri Teterin, Abravanel Hall, July 11, 8 p.m.; Snowbird Center, July 13, 3:30 p.m.

Heretofore when other European-trained candidates for the job of Utah Symphony music director have led the orchestra, they've made it sound like the countries they're from. Hence Pavel Kogan made it sound like Russian orchestra, Hermann Michael made it sound German, and so forth.

Not Victor Yampolsky, though. Under his direction Friday at Abravanel Hall, the Utah Symphony sounded like a first-class *American* orchestra — and in an all-Russian program to boot.

At least that was my impression in the curtain-raiser, Shostakovich's "Festive Overture," its splashy jubilation being served up in a performance of remarkable sheen and precision.

That meant a regal yet full-throated fanfare, followed by a mercurial allegro in which even the galloping brass figures were right on the money in terms of articulation and intonation. And if the latter drifted a bit in the

Imaginative I

By Ivan M. Lincoln
Deseret News theater editor

KURT BESTOR IN CONCERT: "SKETCHES" WORLD PREMIERE CONCERT, Capitol Theatre, 50 W. 200 South; Friday and Saturday, July 11-12 (two performances only)

Two words come to mind (and "mind" is the operative word here) when you're listening to Kurt Bestor's compositions.

Musical imagery.

With Bestor at the piano (and, occasionally singing into a computerized microphone), backed up by a 24-piece orchestra, 14 Gregorian singers (half male chanters, the other half kids from the Salt Lake Children's Choir), a small group of Gospel singers and eight "featured" musicians — audiences at two back-to-back concerts were taken on a melodic tour through 19 of the Utah composer's imaginative, expressive works — all of which



William Shakespeare

In 1856, Lafayette became the first American college to offer a course on Shakespeare taught by Francis A. March, holder of the country's first chair in English philology. Lafayette later published Shakespeare Bulletin, a journal on performances of Shakespeare around the world.

NOW YOU KNOW



Virtually all new strains of influenza arise in China and are harbored in pigs and ducks.

Cold and sinus remedies account for about 60 feet of shelf space in an average drugstore.

The first airline meals were made available in 1919 to passengers who flew between London and Paris in Handley Page Transport planes, and were offered prepackaged lunch boxes for 75 cents. Hot meals were introduced by the French in 1925 and consisted of a five-course meal with wines.

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MUSIC

Utah's "Sundance" . . . a harmonica out on the porch in "Summer Portrait" . . . a hot trumpet in a big band (shades of Bestor's grandfather and his big band at Club 41 near Fondulac, Wis.) in "Epitaph in Blues" and several others.

After intermission, Bestor played all 10 selections from his new "Sketches" recording — works expressing his thoughts, music, about a cross-section of artists, explorers, inventors, re-

Utah choral

By Jerry Johnston

Deseret News staff writer

THE CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY OF UTAH, The 1997 Pioneer Pops Concert, Abravanel Hall, July 12, 8 p.m. One performance only.

The perfect spot for a "Days '47" pops concert would be an amphitheater the size of the Hollywood Bowl in the mouth of Emigration Canyon.

Failing that, however, Abravanel Hall is a solid alternative. And Saturday night The Choral Arts Society of Utah put the hall to good use, performing the annual tribute to the Mormon pioneers.

With Eugene Jelesnik retired Sterling Poulson proved himself a worthy heir for the tradition, taking Jelesnik's tried-and-true "pioneer pop" recipe and spicing it with flavors of his own.

The show has become larger, broader and a bit deeper.

Pops concerts are like family buffets. To be happy, all the passing customer needs is a large selection, hot food and a full plate. And that was how the music was served up Saturday. Numbers ranged from the mellow melodies and harmonies of the trio Envoy to the fiddling Brewster

Coming soon to a s

AP Special Features

Movie monsters have been scaring audiences worldwide for many years. Now these celebrated characters will attempt to scare up interest in U.S. postage stamps.

The frightening figures of the screen will appear on a set of 32-cent U.S. stamps in October as part of National Stamp Collecting Month. The Postal Service will use